

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-04 INSE-00 /018 W

----- 108517

R 310735Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8637

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PK

SUBJ: THE FALSE IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM IN VISA APPLICATIONS

REF: STATE 016879, KARACH 0169

1. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH STATEMENTS IN REFTEL. ADDITIONAL COMMENT FOLLOWS. (NOTES: (1) EMBASSY DOES NOT PERFORM IV WORK; (2) LETTERED PARAGRAPHS CORRESPOND WITH THOSE IN STATE REFTEL.)

2. (A) SCOPE OF PROBLEM IN ISLAMABAD CAN BE INDICATED BY REFUSAL OF 28 PERCENT OF APPLICANTS FOR B AND F VISAS IN 1974. CONOFF ESTIMATES THAT 50 PERCENT OF REFUSALS INVOLVED SOME ELEMENT OF FRAUDULANT IDENTIFICATION OR DOCUMENTATION. IN ADDITION TO THE EXTRA TIME EXPENDED TO DETECT THESE CASES CORRESPONDENCE WITH INS AND VO ABOUT OTHER FRAUD CASES IS LENGTHY AND TIME-CONSUMING. CONSULAR OFFICER SPENT OVER 12 HOURS INVESTIGATING AND REPORTING JUST ONE FRAUDULANT VISA CASE RECENTLY IN WHICH SUBJECT HAD OBTAINED AND USED TWO DIFFERENT PASS-PORTS.

3. (B) IN ADDITION TO KARACHI'S SUMMARY OF TECHNIQUES, EMBASSY WOULD ADD THAT EVEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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IS NOT EXEMPT FROM AT LEAST CARELESSNESS IN DOCUMENTATION.

THERE HAVE BEEN WRONGLY INCLUDED ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS LISTED AS SERVANTS OR DEPENDENTS ON DIPLOMATIC NOTES USED TO OBTAIN DIPLOMATIC VISAS. EMBASSY HAD THREE SUCH CASES THIS YEAR.

4. THE EASE WITH WHICH PAKISTANI PASSPORTS ARE OBTAINED, EVEN WITH CHANGED NAME OR DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, MAKES THEM QUITE UNRELIABLE AS IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS. PAKISTANI PASSPORTS REFLECT THE BAD QUALITY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

5. AN ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM IS CAUSED BY THIS SOCIETY'S RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD NAMES. PAKISTANIS MAY USE ONE, TWO OR THREE NAMES; MAY SOMETIMES INCLUDE A CASTE OR TRIBAL SURNAME; AND MAY DROP, ADD OR CHANGE ORDER OF THEIR NAMES AT WILL. THIS ADDS TIME TO SUCH A NORMALLY ROUTINE MATTER AS NAME-CHECKS FROM THE FILES, AND THE ADDITION OF A SURNAME CAN DEFEAT THE WHOLE CHECK, A FACT OF WHICH MANY REPEATER VISA APPLICANTS ARE WELL AWARE.

6. (D) A MOST IMPORTANT SOLUTION TO COMBATING FRAUDULANT IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS IN VISA WORK WOULD BE MASSIVE INCREASE IN INS APPROPRIATIONS. DIFFICULTY OF GETTING TIMELY INVESTIGATIONS AND RESPONSES FROM UNDERSTAFFED INS LEAVES OVERSEAS CONOFFS, IN EFFECT, UNABLE TO PURSUE CASES ONCE SUBJECT IS IN U.S.

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